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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9307  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1802  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1424  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1770  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2353  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 1363  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1911  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 0224  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0382  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 0326  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0276  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9059  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2728  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2871  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0117  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0813

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002246

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WHA/AND SHELBY SMITH-WILSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/25/2017

TAGS: [BO](#) [IR](#) [KNNP](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IAEA](#) [USUN](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA: ITALY WILL CONSIDER DEMARCHE ON SUPPORT  
OF IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: SECSTATE 146842

Classified By: A/Pol M/C Jonathan R. Cohen, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

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11. (C) Poloff met with MFA Office Director for South America Michele Giacomelli October 23 to discuss reftel points and request that Italy demarche the Government of Bolivia on its unhelpful support of Iran's nuclear program. Poloff explained USG concerns over inaccurate and troubling statements by Bolivian officials that imply Iran's nuclear program is "peaceful" and "legal," and suggested that Italy might use its influence in Latin America to counter such claims.

12. (C) Giacomelli said he thought Bolivia's embrace of Iran was practical rather than ideological. Given unfavorable conditions that have made foreign companies reluctant to invest, Bolivia has had trouble attracting the capital it needs to achieve President Morales's development goals. An authoritarian regime like Iran can offer investment unhindered by normal market forces.

13. (C) Giacomelli cautioned that any approach to the Bolivians would require care, and should not take a scolding tone. He thought that a message emphasizing the international nature of concern over Iran's nuclear program would be appropriate.

14. (C) We delivered the same message to the MFA Iran Desk Officer Lorenzo Kluzer, who was sympathetic to the request and said he would discuss it with his colleagues in the MFA Directorate General for the Americas.  
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